

Message Text

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72-66

ORIGIN ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CU, JM, US

SUBJECT: GOJ REACTION TO NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE

REF: USINFO 221718Z

1. JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR RATTRAY TELEPHONED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS NOV. 23 TO COMPLAIN ABOUT NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE NOV. 21 (REFTEL) WHICH ATTRIBUTED TO US DIPLOMATS STATEMENT THAT EFFORTS BY MANLEY TO IMPROVE US-CUBAN RELATIONS HAD BEEN "SELF-APPOINTED."

2. RATTRAY SAID THAT IN VIEW OF BALANCED SPEECH BY MANLEY, SUCH SNIDE COMMENT WAS UNHELPFUL. LUERS REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO IDEA WHO, IF ANYONE, IN US GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE MADE SUCH A COMMENT OR TO WHAT DEGREE A HARMLESS REMARK MIGHT HAVE BEEN TWISTED. LUERS SAID WE REGRET ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT STEM FROM UNFORTUNATE PRESS REPORTS BUT DO NOT CONSIDER THIS PARTICULAR STORY TO BE TOO SERIOUS. ROBINSON

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